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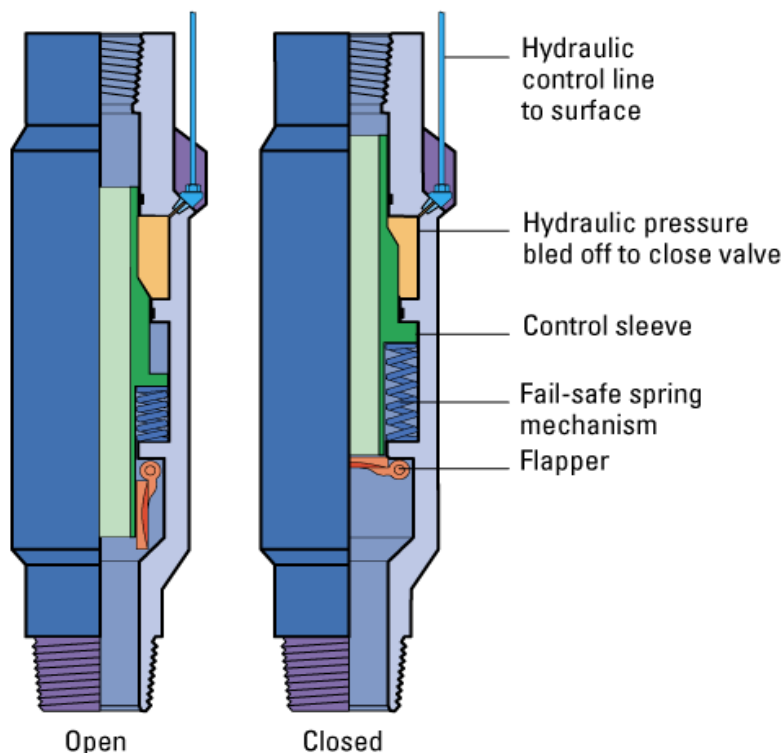
## Safety Devices

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) actively works with the offshore energy industry to ensure the safe evacuation of all offshore workers, protection of offshore facilities, and inspection of safety devices on production equipment and pipelines. Through current MMS regulations, annual above-water structural inspections, and 100-year storm design standards, the energy industry has created a measure of safety that was not present in the past.

MMS also requires all wellbores in the Gulf of Mexico to include installation of a downhole safety valve (DSV). A DSV isolates wellbore pressure and fluids in the event of an emergency or failure of surface equipment. If a hurricane were to sever an offshore wellhead, the DSV would prevent the escape of any oil, gas, or wellbore fluid into the Gulf. In Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there were no well spills and all of the DSVs held as designed.

Even though MMS performs rigorous inspections and enforces strict regulations, the possibility of an oil spill during a hurricane or tropical storm still exists. For this reason, MMS requires all companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico to demonstrate that they have the ability to respond and successfully contain and remove a 5,000 barrel-per-day spill. MMS periodically inspects the spill response equipment to ensure that it is readily available, well maintained, and appropriate for the area of operations.

MMS manages offshore oil and gas exploration as well as renewable energy sources including wind, wave, solar, and underwater current on 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments. MMS



*Downhole safety valve, standard safety equipment required by MMS in all offshore wells.*

also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands.

For more information on MMS and offshore safety devices, visit [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov).

**Energy – MMS – Value**

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